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Publicity of notifications intended for the information of villagers.

*1263 Q.—Mr. A. B. Shetty: With reference to the answer given to question No. 463, answered on 10th October 1928, regarding the method of giving better publicity to notifications intended for the information of villagers, will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to lay on the table the report submitted to the Government by the Board of Revenue?

A.—A copy [a] of the Board's Resolution No. 8181, dated 12th December 1928, and a copy of G.O. Mis. No. 146, Revenue, dated 22nd January 1929, are placed on the table.

Failure of monsoons in certain taluks of Coimbatore district.

*1264 Q.—Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Collector of Coimbatore has made any report regarding the failure of the monsoons in some taluks of the Coimbatore district;

(*b*) whether the failure is specially serious in the taluk of Coimbatore and whether the tanks in the Coimbatore taluk which are fed by the Noyal river received practically no supply this year;

(*c*) whether most of the lands on which paddy is generally raised have been used this year for sowing cotton only and whether several other lands have remained uncultivated; and

(*d*) whether any remissions of Government kist have been recommended by the Collector and if so, to what extent?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) Apart from the usual season reports the Collector reported on the 16th October 1928 that the South-west Monsoon had been generally poor but that good rain had fallen since then in most parts of the district except in Coimbatore itself. He subsequently reported on 1st December that the improvement which began in October had been maintained and that by November the conditions had become normal. He added that all irrigation works had received adequate supplies. The Government have received no particular information as to the condition of the Noyal river.

(*c*) The Government have no information.

(*d*) No recommendations have been received by the Government. The grant of remissions under the rules is within the competence of the district officers.

Legislative Council

Extension of the life-time of the present Legislative Council.

*1265 Q.—Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether since November 1928, when a question on the subject was answered in the Council, any proposals have been placed before the Government either by the Government of India or by the Simon Committee or by any other official or non-official authority or person suggesting or recommending the extension of the life of the present Legislative Council;

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[a] Printed as Appendix III on pages 639–640 infra.

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(b) whether the Government have any intention of getting the period of life of this Council extended ; and

(c) if not, when the Council will be dissolved and when the general elections will take place ?

A.—(a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) & (c) The power to dissolve the Council or to extend its term vests in His Excellency the Governor and not in the Government.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Sir, with reference to the answer to clause (b) of the question, may I know whether this Government as a government have ever considered this matter or propose to consider this matter ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" No, Sir."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know, with reference to the answer to clause (c), in case there is no proposal to extend the life of this Council, when this Council is expected to be dissolved and when the elections are expected to take place ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" When it will be dissolved I cannot say. But under the rules, the life-time of the Council extends to 31st December 1929, unless dissolved in the meanwhile."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know whether the Government are taking any steps with regard to the general elections which will normally come in the course of this year ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" The matter has not been considered yet, Sir."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know when the Government propose to consider the matter, Sir ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" In due course, when we have some indication of His Excellency's desire in the matter."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know whether the Government propose to wait till His Excellency makes up his mind in regard to this matter ? May I know how long they propose to wait ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" The hon. Member has stated it, Sir."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Supposing His Excellency does not make up his mind, is the Government not going to take any steps in regard to the preparation of the electoral rolls ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" They will examine the question as to whether revision of the electoral rolls may be done under the rules independently of the fixing of the date of the new elections."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I take it from the hon. the Revenue Member that, in case the rules do not justify the revision of the electoral rolls apart from the date of the general election, they propose to take no action in the matter ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" If the rules do not give us the power, we cannot do so."